Sealing agents for gaskets

Since there appears to be some uncertainty concerning various sealing agents we should like to make the following comments:

Most gaskets give good sealing without the use of any sealing agent. In certain cases, however, when the contact surfaces are not altogether satisfactory, in assembling difficulties and in cases where there are no gaskets, sealing agent should be used.

Shellac has been used most extensively earlier as sealing agent and has also been recommended in our Service Manuals. The hard shellac surface, however, easily flakes off and can cause blocked oil channels, damaged bearings, etc., so that it should no longer be used.

A good sealing agent should be lightly applied with a brush, have good adhesive qualities and should be easy to remove. It should not develope a grainy surface and should not be soluble in the fluid for which it is acting as a seal.

Our chemical laboratory has been carrying out extensive research with the various sealing agents available on the market as far as the above qualities are concerned. The results obtained have been more or less the same for all the sealing agents tested. In certain cases, however, it was found necessary to stir up the material thoroughly before using.